May 24, 2023

Dear Superintendent Sullivan,

It is with extremely mixed emotions that I submit this letter to you as notification of my resignation from Colchester Public Schools, effective June 30, 2023. I have happily worked in this district for the past 5 years, and have found the community at William J. Johnston Middle School to be among the best that I have ever seen or worked in. Students in this district are lucky beyond words to have these administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in their corners. It has been a pleasure to work in a building that supports students not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Additionally, I have learned so much through my involvement in the Union and from my fellow members, and I am proud to have served our membership during my time here.

My next step brings me back to my roots, to the town I grew up in. I will be going back to their self-contained Alternative High School, and taking on some administrative responsibilities- the natural step towards using my 092 which I very recently completed. I have always wholeheartedly believed in alternative schools, so when this opportunity- which I was not actively seeking out- was brought to my attention, it was something that I could not pass up. I am so grateful for my years here in Colchester, for all of the connections I have made, and for the students who have come in and out of my classroom during this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Merkent

copy: Chris Bennett, WJJMS
Amy Emory, Pupil Services